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7 Jan. 1995

Dr. Mitchell Waldorp

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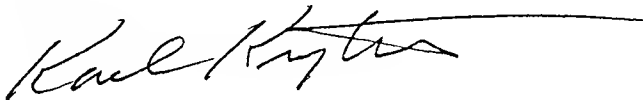
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mitch:

Enclosed please find copies of: (a) "In Memorium of J.C.R. Licklider, 1915-1990), which I presented at the MIT ceremony on remembrance of Lick, Oct., 1990; (b) the letter I wrote to you on 30 Nov., 1994, which apparently you never received; and (c) "J.C.R. Licklider - Experimental Psychologist to Computer Scientist", which I prepared apropos our telephone discussion of last week.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions on this material, or feel there is more information about Lick I may have that would be of interest to you. Indeed, would you be so kind as to let me know whether or not you have received this letter - your failure to get my last correspondence makes me wonder about the Washington, D.C. post office!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karl Kryter", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Karl D. Kryter

done under laboratory and field conditions, and Lick was deeply affected by his observations and contacts with the military services, their operations, and need for scientific, systems research.

Following his work at the Harvard Psycho acoustic Lab during the War, Lick found a plethora of interests and challenges: some psychoacoustic, some military system and operational problems, and some, an ever increasing part, the application of the new computer capabilities to information storage, manipulation and control. His research, management and teaching in computer-related matters covered the period from about the mid-1950's to his death.

Lick made important, widely recognized contributions in all of these areas of endeavor. However, the most important to the real world are, no doubt, those in computer and information processing sciences and applications, subjects sometimes considered as being concerned with the physical sciences and electronic hardware, not psychology. To return to the question posed earlier: is this to be expected of a psychologist, even if a so-called 'experimental' one?

My answer, in the case of Lick, would be "yes". Partly because of his training and research in experimental psychology, partly his background in the physical sciences and engineering, and, not the least of course, his outstanding intellect.

Karl D. Kryter
7 January, 1995

J.C.K. LICKLIDER was born March 11, 1915 in St. Louis, Missouri. At Washington University he majored in physics, mathematics and psychology, and received an AB in 1937 and an AM in psychology in 1938. He continued his education at the University of Rochester and received a PhD in psychology in 1942.

From 1943 to 1950, as a research fellow at the Harvard Psycho-Acoustics Laboratory and a lecturer at the University, he made important contributions to the area of speech intelligibility. In 1950 Dr. Licklider became an associate professor at MIT, was a member of the Acoustics Laboratory and formed a new Psychology Section in the Economics and Social Science Department. During this time he also became a group leader at the newly established Lincoln Laboratory, and it was there he developed his keen interest in man-machine interaction.

In 1957 Dr. Licklider joined Bolt, Beranek and Newman as Vice President and Head of the Psycho-acoustics, Engineering Psychology and Information Systems Research Departments. The following year, the Acoustical Society of America elected him president of their organization.

In 1962 Dr. Licklider became a member of the Advanced Research Projects Agency in Washington, DC, where he created and served as Director of the Information Processing Techniques Office. In this capacity he instituted a program of research in computer science by actively espousing his ideas on man-computer symbiosis and computer communication, and by helping to architect and to provide support for research projects and research laboratories, such as MIT's Project MAC, at several universities. These universities shaped the field, and the research program he started had a profound impact on education and research in computer science in this country. The support for the university research he initiated provided the foundation to establish the first PhD programs in the United States that produced a generation of computer science faculty and researchers.

Dr. Licklider was a consultant to the Director of Research at IBM from 1964 to 1967 and returned to MIT in 1967 as a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Director of Project MAC. That same year he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. In 1985 he retired from MIT, but continued his interest in computing in the Laboratory for Computer Science.

Nominated by Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, Dr. Licklider was one of six persons to receive the 1990 Common Wealth Award of Distinguished Service.

Musical Prelude

SPEAKERS

ALBERT VEZZA
Laboratory for Computer Science
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

WILLIAM J. MCGILL
President, Emeritus
Columbia University

Musical Interlude
"Somewhere," West Side Story

KARL D. KRYTER
Staff Scientist, Emeritus
SRI International

CRAIG FIELDS
President and Chief Technical Officer
Microelectronics and Computer
Technology Corporation

Musical Interlude
"Sunrise, Sunset," Fiddler on the Roof

JEROME B. WIESNER
President, Emeritus
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

ROBERT M. FANO
Professor of Electrical Engineering and
Computer Science, Emeritus
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Musical Interlude
"The Impossible Dream," Man of La Mancha

EDWARD FREDKIN
Professor of Physics
Boston University

ROBERT W. TAYLOR
Director, Systems Research Center
Digital Equipment Corporation

MUSICIANS

TOM FERANTE—saxophone
JAY KEYSER—trombone
HERB POMEROY—trumpet
JOHN REPUCCI—bass
PAUL SCHMELING—piano

Guests are invited to a Reception immediately following the Remembrance Ceremony in the Grier Room, Building 34, Fourth Floor, 50 Vassar Street.

Ushers are former students and colleagues in Dr. Licklider's research group.

These neurological and perceptual research studies at Rochester and Harvard laid the foundation for the publications in 1951 of his widely acclaimed 'Duplex Theory of Pitch Perception', 'Basic Correlates of the Auditory Stimulus', and 'Three Auditory Theories'.

Lick's involvement in hearing and psychoacoustics research covered some 30 or so years, and over 50 papers, chapters and inventions were prepared by Lick on hearing and psychoacoustics. These included studies on such diverse matters as the suppression of pain by sound, auditory warning signals, the use of auditory displays for the analysis of seismic information, and signal detection theory. But by the late 1950's, Lick's work centered more and more on man-machine interactions, culminating in his almost complete attention to computer sciences, which will be discussed by others at the Memorial ceremony. This breadth of contributions could have perhaps been predicted from the fact that Lick graduated from Washington University in 1937 with majors in mathematics, physics and psychology.

Milton in 'Lycidas' remarks that: 'The desire for fame, the last infirmity of the noble mind'. Lick was noble of mind and had not that infirmity, seeking only knowledge and truth, with the utmost honesty and integrity.

I wish I could adequately express my appreciation, and that of my wife Grace, for the memories we have of Lick. He and I were 'best man' at each other's weddings; he was, and in reality, is, an important part of our personal, and my professional, lives. We give our deepest love to Louise, Tracy and Janann, Linda and Lorin.

Karl D. Kryter
Borrego Springs, California
October 1990